

**Report on the Senate Bill  
17-074,  
“Create Medication  
Assisted Pilot  
Program”,**

**23-21-807 C.R.S.**

**(First 12 months Report)**

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**23-21-807 C.R.S.  
PURPOSE**

To increase access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and expand the MAT workforce to treat opioid use disorder; specifically, to increase the number of trained and licensed Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Physicians' Assistant (PA) providers of MAT. Total of \$500,000 per year for 2 years, \$123,000 per organization/year 1

**Goal One**

To increase the number of MAT trained NP's and PA's in Routt and Pueblo counties

**Goal Two**

To increase access to MAT and other evidence-based treatment/behavior therapies for individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) in the pilot program areas.



### Organizations Funded

**A Community-Based Advisory Committee evaluated and identified three community treatment agencies to implement 23-21-807 C.R.S.**

- **Colorado Treatment Services, Pueblo, CO**
- **Health Solutions, Pueblo, CO**
- **Road To Recovery, Steamboat Springs, Routt, CO**



### 23-21-807 C.R.S. Program Successes in first six months:

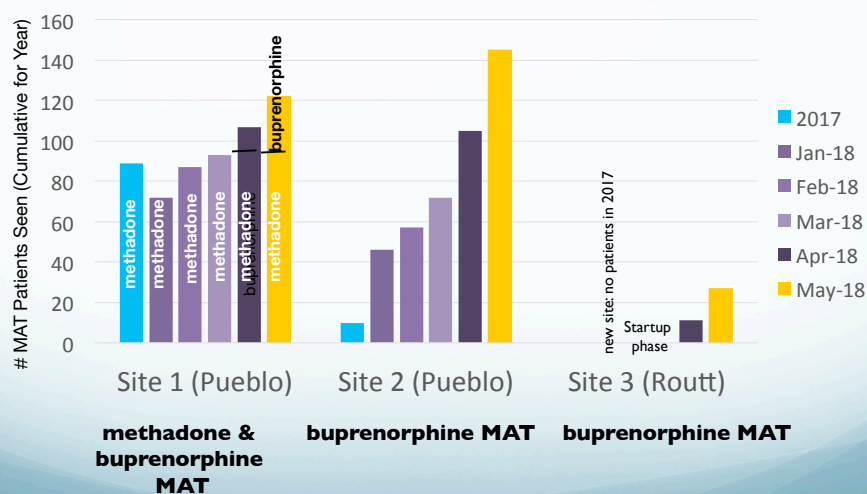
- **Addition of 9 waived NP and PA providers in MAT treatment;**
- **Agencies provided MAT treatment to 294 individuals in these two counties;**
- **Established referral networks to MAT treatment with law enforcement agencies, judicial agencies, and other health care providers in both counties;**
- **Increased naloxone availability in Routt County**



## Increase NP and PA Providers of MAT

- **Pueblo County:** In the first six months, 4 additional Nurse Practitioners became MAT waived
- **Routt County:** In the first six months, 5 additional provides became MAT waived, 4 are Physician Assistants and 1 is a Physician

### RESULTS FOR GOAL 2: ACCESS TO CARE



### Site 1 Colorado Treatment Services

- Hired and waiver trained one Nurse Practitioner and hired one Behavioral Health Counselor
- Implemented outreach to Harm Reduction Center, coordination with community health care providers
- Implemented online marketing to increase patient recruitment and referrals.
- Set up behavioral interventions as well as transportation vouchers and welcome bags for retaining patients while in MAT



### Site 2 Health Solutions

- Hired one Behavioral Health Provider
- Supported 3 current Nurse Practitioners to be waiver trained
- Added additional behavioral therapies
- Coordinated with the local corrections community to provide post-release buprenorphine induction in collaboration with the Pueblo County Jail.

### Site 3 Road to Recovery

- Start up costs to set up new clinic and new MAT protocols
- Provided support to obtain waiver training for 4 PA's and 1 Physician and more pending
- Supported Behavioral Therapist to become a Certified Addiction Counselor
- Marketing and community outreach to local judge and law enforcement to set up referral mechanisms for MAT and substance use services
- Community wide day-long training for providers on opioid use and chronic pain management that reached over 100 community members and providers

### MAT Modalities and Behavioral Therapies Available

#### Medication Assisted Treatment

Methadone  
Buprenorphine  
Naltrexone

#### Other Behavioral Therapies

**Cognitive-behavioral (group or individual)**

**Dialectical behavior therapy**

**Motivational interviewing, relapse prevention, or solution-focused therapy**

**Family therapy**

**Residential Treatment**

**Vocational Services**

**Case Management**

**Crisis Services**

### Community Outreach Activities

- |             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| Hospitals   | { | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emergency department outreach</li><li>• Open slots for hospital discharge planners to schedule patients</li></ul>   |
| Clinics     | { | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cold calls to providers</li><li>• Advertising to providers</li><li>• Educational seminars for providers</li></ul>   |
| Corrections | { | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Met with local police department</li><li>• Met with local judge</li><li>• Met with parole officers</li><li>• Open slots for discharge from local jail</li></ul> |

### Challenges identified

- Getting Medicaid reimbursement for therapies
- Getting credentialed in old Medicaid system and now in new RAE system
- Stigma among other providers in the community still an issue, especially in Emergency Departments

## Recommendations

- Establish timely Medicaid reimbursement mechanisms and billing guidance for MAT across CO to make MAT programs sustainable.
- Continue to work with “Lift the Label” Campaign to decrease the stigma among health care providers.
- Continue Community Education efforts, utilizing a variety of media and social networks.
- Plan dissemination and support for best practices gained from this Pilot MAT Program to other communities throughout Colorado

Senate Bill 17-074  
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**We want to thank the Colorado Legislature for this wonderful opportunity to make an impact on the opioid issues in this state!**

Questions?